Mr. A. Eachara Menon (*Chittur-Rural*): The Diwan Peishkar is absent today and therefore I may be allowed to ask this question to-morrow.

Mr. President: You can ask the question to-morrow.

SALE PROCEEDS OF UNCLAIMED PROPERTIES OR REFUNDS—RECEIPT FROM THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY COMPANY.

156. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar (*Nellayi*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether our Government is getting any portion of the sale proceeds of unclaimed properties or refunds which the South Indian Railway get from time to time?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): Sale proceeds of unclaimed and damaged goods is an item of the receipts of the Cochin State Railway under Clause 1 (o) of the Working Agreement. As regards refunds, what the hon'ble member means is not clear.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar (*Nellayi*): As regards the sale proceeds of unclaimed and damaged goods, is it on the goods which they get from the State railway alone, that is calculated?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): Yes. The portion that relates to the State Railway.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar (*Nellayi*): Suppose some goods are left in the train which starts from Ernakulam and goes to Madras and these articles are found in Madras. How can they say that the articles were left by somebody from Erode, Coimbatore or from any station in Cochin?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): This is not an isolated instance of the kind. There are several branch railways in the S. I. R. And this being a common question, I am sure, railways must have some definite rules for their guidance in this matter.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar (*Nellayi*): What I mean is this. Suppose some goods are sent from Madras or Bombay to our State and by some mistake, if they charge above the Schedule rate and the owner of the goods does not claim this over-charge and when the audit is going on they may find out that the railway authorities have charged above the schedule rates and that amount is calculated as refund.

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): In that case there is no refund. That is some extra receipt.

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Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar (*Nellayi*): Do we get anything from that?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): How can we get receipts for goods sent from Madras?

Mr. President: All these are governed by some elaborate rules issued by the Railway Board. You cannot expect our Finance Member to know all these.

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): Certain particular points our agreement provides. On all the other points, the general rules of the Railway Board operate. And this is not a point covered by our railway agreement. Therefore it comes under the general rules issued by the Railway Board.

Mr. President: I think we will try to get as much literature as is possible on these matters from the Railway authorities and place them in our library so that hon'ble members may satisfy their legitimate curiosities as regards railway.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon (*Cranganur*): It is included in the railway agreement.

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): But we are speaking on refunds.

INVESTMENTS IN THE HARBOUR AND RAILWAY.

157. Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon (*Cranganur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) how much funds of His Highness' Government have been invested in the Cochin Harbour Scheme up-to-date exclusive of the amount spent for the conversion of the old Metre-gauge into a Broad-gauge Railway;

(*b*) what the amount will be inclusive of the expenditure on the Railway;

(*c*) what the annual return is on such investment?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*):

(*a*) Rs. 41,42,644.

(*b*) Rs. 1,17,23,131—15—0.

(*c*) The annual return is in the form of (1) the Government's share of the customs revenue, (2) the rent of Rs. 75,000 per annum on the 100 acres of reclamation land allowed for the use of the Harbour Authorities, and (3) the Government's share of the profits in working the State Railway.

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